

Not offered - Pacific

DET. DOC. #1453

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAFI, Sadao, et al

(Translation)

SWORN DEPOSITION

DEPONENT: WACHI, Takaji

Having first duly sworn an oath as on attached
sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in
my country I hereby depose as follows.

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

1. I was on duty in the Philippines during the time from March 1942 to February 1945. During this period from March 1942 to April 1944 I was Chief of Staff of the 14th Area Army. The army commanders at this time were three Lieutenant Generals, HOMMA, TAYAKA and KURODA.

Following this, I occupied the post of Vice-Chief of Staff of the Southern Army from May, 1944 to October of the same Year. Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Army of the time, Marshall TERAUCHI, was staying in Manila. Finally, during the months from November 1944 to February 1945, I was Chief of Staff of the 35th Army which was under General YAMASHITA, the Commander of the 14th Area Army and took part in the battles of Leyte under the Army Commander, Lieutenant General SUZUKI.

2. I shall give an account concerning our treatment of war prisoners on Bataan.

Our attacks against the Bataan Peninsula were carried on in the spring of 1942 and it was on April 9 when the American-Philippine Forces surrendered.

We had estimated beforehand that war prisoners of the American-Philippine Forces would amount to 40,000 at the most, but in reality there were 70,000 in all. This indeed caused much difficulty on our part in accomodating the prisoners.

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*facilities?**you had
made provisions
to handle
for 40,000
What provisions
were there?*

DEF. DOC. #1453

rest back to the rear on ambulances. The distance of march we covered a day was within the limits permitted by treaties. I witnessed this march personally and so far as I observed, there was no atrocities committed. The prisoners were sent by train from San-Fernando to O'Donell where they were placed in an internment camp. Later, 20,000 out of 70,000 died from under-nourishment and malaria. Provisions for the prisoners were, in addition to those prepared beforehand, obtained locally or sent from territories like Formosa etc. Thus we did our best in providing the prisoners with food. In the way of medicine, as there was very nearly a sufficient quantity, we gave out as much as was required.

3. Until July, 1942, treatment of prisoners of war and military administration was under the jurisdiction of the General Staff, and the Line of Communications Commander was taking care of the matter. In July, 1942 these affairs were transferred to the jurisdiction of the Minister of War, and Chief of Prisoner of War Internment Camps became appointive. From this time on, the Minister of War became the controlling officer and the Army Commander became the administrator. I know this fact from a standpoint of my duties which was assisting the Army Commander.

4. All the Philippines among the prisoners were released over a period dating from August to October 1942. Volunteers,

DAF. DOC. #1453

Judging from their bravery with which the Americans and Filipinos fought so intensely, we supposed that their physical conditions would be certainly fine. But we found most of the soldiers of the American-Philippine Forces were ill from undernourishment. As was also the case with the Japanese, there were a lot of sufferers of malaria, perhaps, because of the fact that this was a jungly zone. Although we intended ^{to carry them by car} and trucks which were captured by us from the enemy were out of commission and only a few were available. As for our side, vehicles were filled to capacity in transportation of arms and ammunition and other military supplies necessary for us to carry out the attack on Corregidor and subjugation campaigns in the various areas. As a result, all the Japanese soldiers, too, were obliged to march on foot. As we had many patients, especially malarial among us, fighting strength of the Japanese Forces dropped for a time to nearly one third of normal. This made it inevitable to postpone the commencement of attacks on Corregidor, which had been scheduled for around April 20 of that year, until May 5. It was on account of these conditions that we were compelled to march on foot from Balanga (TN:phonetic) as far as San-Fernando. As to those prisoners of war who claimed to be sick, we allowed some to recuperate Bataan and sent the

DEF. DOC. #1453

among whom was Major-General Francisco, were appointed to posts in the constabulary etc. The rest were returned to their homes. The American prisoners numbering about 10,000 were removed to places Cabanatuan where richer resources were obtainable and to Mindanao island where there were more farms than in O'Donell. Some prisoners even went to Japan. Although we opened hospitals locally, the sick were sent to Manila for medical treatment as there were fully equipped hospitals there. Until September 1944, there were no air-raids ^{by} made against the Islands American aircraft, so the prisoners spent their days in peace as well as the inhabitants throughout the Philippines.

On this 23day of April, 1947

At Tokyo

DEPONENT WACHI, Takaji (seal)

I, KIYOSE, Ichiro
I, WACHI, Takaji hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this Witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: (signed) KIYOSE, Ichiro (seal)

DWP. DOC. #1453

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell
the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

WACHI, Takaji (seal)

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Def. Doc. #1453

極東國際軍事裁判所

亞米利加合衆國其他

對

荒木貞夫 其他

宣誓供述者

供述者 和ヲ

知チ 鷹タカ

ニジ

自分儀我國ニ行ハルル方式ニ從ヒ先ヅ別紙ノ通り宣誓ヲ爲シタル上次ノ
如ク供述致シマス

一 私は一九四二年三月より一九四五年二月までフィリッピンに勤務して居りました。其の中一九四二年三月から一九四四年四月迄は第十四方面軍参謀長でありました。此の當時の軍司令官は本間、田中及黒田の三中將でありました。

次に一九四四年の五月から同年の十月迄は南方總軍の總参謀副長でありました。當時南方軍總司令官寺内元師はマニラに在駐せられて居つたのでありました。最後に一九四四年十一月より一九四五年二月迄は第十四方面軍司令官山下の部下にある第三十五軍の参謀長を務め軍司令官鈴木中將の下でレイテの戦に従軍致しました。

二 バタンに於ける俘虜の取扱に就いて陳述致します

バタン半島の攻撃は一九四二年春でありましたが同年の四月九日に米比軍は降参しました。米比軍の俘虜たるべきものは四万人位であらうと豫測して居りましたところ、實際は七万人も居りましてその收容には非常に困難を感じました。又彼等は非常に勇敢に戦つたのでありますから健康状態は良いのであらうと思つて居りました處、大多數栄養失調にかゝつて居りました。日本軍側もさうであります、此の地帯

はジャングル地帯である爲かマラリヤ患者が多かつたのであります。俘虜を自動車で運びたかつたのでありますが、敵側より鹵獲した自動車及トラックは殆ど壊れて居り運轉し得るのはほんの二三台位に過ぎません。我方の自動車はコレヒドールの攻撃及各地の敵定作戦に必要な兵器彈藥其他の軍需品の輸送に一杯でありました。それ故日本側の兵も全部徒歩行軍したのであります。日本側にも患者殊にマラリヤ患者が多かつた爲一時戦力は三分の一位に低下し本來四月廿日頃コレヒドール攻撃の豫定のところ之を五月五日迄延期のやむなきに至りました。

右様の次第でやむなくバランガよりサンフエルナンド迄徒步行軍をしたのであります。尤も病氣であると申し出たものは別に一部はバタトンにて療養させ一部は患者自動車で後送したのであります。毎日の行軍の距離は條約上許された距離以内であります。私はこの行軍を實見しました私の見たところでは殘虐行爲は曾てありませぬ。俘虜はサンフエルナンドより汽車にてオードネルに送りこゝにて收容所に入れましたが其の後七万人中二万人程は榮養失調やマラリヤで死亡致しました。俘虜に對する食糧は豫め準備せるものの外原地物資及台灣等より追送せられたもの

で出来るだけ給與するに務めたのであります。藥品は略々充足する量がありましたから必要量は之を與へました。

三 俘虜の取扱及び軍政は一九四二年七月迄は参謀本部の管理下にあり兵站司令官が之を取扱つて居りました。一九四二年七月中に始めて陸軍大臣の管下に入り俘虜收容所長が任命せられました。此の時から以後陸軍大臣が俘虜の統轄官で軍司令官が其の管理官であります。私は軍司令官を補佐する職務上よりしてこれを承知して居ります。

四 一九四二年の八月より十月迄の間に俘虜のうち比島人は全部釋放しました。而してフランススコ少將を始め希望者は比島の警察隊等の職務に就かしめ其の他は家庭に還したのであります。俘虜は米人俘虜一万人位となりましたがオードライルよりは物資も豊富なカバナツツアンや農園の多いミンダナオ島に移しました。一部日本に行つたものもあります。病院は現地にも設けましたがマニラに完備したものがあつた病人はこゝにて療養せしめました。一九四四年九月迄は米機よりの空爆もなく比島全体も閑静であり俘虜も平靜な生活を送つたのであります。

昭和二十二年（一九四七年）

四月二十三日於 極東國際軍事
裁判所構内

發
出

看

和

知

庭

右ハ當立御人ノ面前ニテ宣讀シ且ソ署名捺印シタルコトヲ證明シマス

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於
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郎

Def. Doc. #1453

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良心ニ從ヒ眞實ヲ述ベ何事ヲモ黙秘セズ又何事ヲモ附加セザルコトヲ

宣

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(署名
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